



Heat waves, urban climate and human health

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| Author(s): | Endlicher W, Jendritzky G, Fischer J, Redlich JP |
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Abstract:

The European heat wave of 2003 was an outstanding weather event. The months of June and August have been nearly everywhere in Germany the warmest months since the start of registrations in 1901. The registered mean air summer temperature was 19, 6 °C, that is 3,4K higher than the mean value. At August 9 and August 13, 2006, the highest maximum temperatures ever registered in Germany, 40, 2 °C, have been measured in Karlsruhe and in Freiburg. This extreme weather was caused by a blocking action of the westerly circulation due to a stationary wave forming a so-called Omegaweather type. High pressure systems with cloudless sky conditions permitted extreme sun radiation and caused repeatedly record temperatures. In southern Germany 53 hot days with maximum temperatures higher than 30 °C have been registered. This heat wave concerned not only Germany, but large regions of Western Europe with France and Great Britain. Other European countries like Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Italy have been concerned, too.

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Resource Description

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content